



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## CHURCH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK -- The National Institute for Lay Training recently celebrated a commitment and commissioning service for entering students, the director and office administrator at General Theological Seminary in New York. Approximately 50 students began training with the Institute's three regional programs this fall. The Institute trains lay leaders who are then able to train and support other laity for the practice of ministry in the Church, the community, the home and the job. Each of the three regional programs has a special emphasis for lay leadership: an ecumenical program (Claremont, Calif.), small congregations (North Carolina), and urban and suburban communities (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut). Patricia Page is director and Lydia DeLorenzo is office administrator.

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JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, has commended Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha "for the courage he keeps showing." Bishop Tutu was responding to the prime minister's recent statement that he was prepared to consider suggestions for changing the laws barring interracial sex and marriage in South Africa. "If these laws are removed from our statute books, our country will be much better," he said. "These are two horrible pieces of legislation that have made our country a laughing stock of the outside world. It is the freedom of an individual to make a decision on marriage. You marry a person, not a race."

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LONDON -- Archbishop Theodoritos Athenagoras, Metropolitan of the Greek Orthodox Church in Britain and parts of Europe since 1964 and a noted figure in the ecumenical movement, died here in September at the age of 67. He was personal representative of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople to the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury and to the World Council of Churches.

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NEW YORK -- Sister Augusta, OSA, former missionary in China and later in The Philippines, died recently. She was appointed a missionary of the Episcopal Church in 1934, though she had actually been working in China since 1929. When missionaries had to leave China in 1939, she was transferred to The Philippines where she remained until 1945. During World War II she and other missionaries were in Philippine concentration camps. After the war, she returned to China until forced to leave a second time in 1949. From 1950 to 1962 she served among American Indians in Wisconsin. In her book, "My 50 Years in the Convent," her concluding section is entitled, "Retirement? Never!"

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Rev. Noah E. Fehl, Episcopal Church missionary in Hong Kong from 1959 to 1975, died here in September. In Hong Kong he was a member of the faculty of Chung Chi College, where he was a noted scholar in oriental studies, particularly Chinese, with a large number of published books to his credit. When he returned to the U.S. in 1975, he intended to take a higher education post but serious illness prevented that plan. He is survived by his wife Ethel who was also active on the staff of Chung Chi College and is now retired.

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NEW YORK -- The Rev. William V. Albert, former editor of the Episcopal Clerical Directory, and a member of the staff of St. Luke's Church, Williamsbridge, The Bronx, N. Y., died in late October. He had also been editor of the "Christian Year Calendar and Episcopal Church Lesson Calendar." His parish posts had been in the Dioceses of Mississippi, Louisiana, Dallas, Connecticut and Newark. Just before his retirement he had been rector of Grace Church, Jersey City, N. J., from 1966 to 1975.

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PORTLAND, Ore. -- Gertrude Selzer, a retired missionary, died following a major stroke at a nursing home here where she had been a resident for several years. Born in 1892, she was appointed a missionary of the Episcopal Church. She served as a nurse in Shanghai from 1923 to 1952. Following a leave of absence, she was sent to The Philippines where she continued her service until she retired in 1960. She made her retirement home in Oregon and was active in church life there. Her funeral was at St. Barnabas Church, Portland, with the Rev. Robert F. Grafe, an old friend, officiating. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Edna M. Barton, Rainier, Ore.

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NEW YORK, -- The first woman to become rector of an Episcopal church in the Diocese of New York, and one of the first in the country, the Rev. Carol Anderson was formally inducted into her position at All Angel's Church on the Upper West Side, Manhattan, on Nov. 11. Suffragan Bishop Stuart Wetmore of New York presided at the Celebration of a New Ministry. Bishop John Coburn of Massachusetts preached the sermon and Bishop Horace Donegan read a lesson. Ordained a priest in 1977, she has been associate rector at St. James' Church, New York City. Founded in 1890, All Angels' recently sold its large stone church building on 81st Street and West End Avenue and moved its worship services and other activities into the small adjacent parish hall.

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PRINCETON, N.J. -- Pope John Paul II has received one of the highest ratings for personal popularity of any individual tested in the 28 years that measurements have been made by the Gallup Poll. In a survey completed on the Sunday his October tour of U.S. cities ended, 60 percent of the public gave him a "highly favorable" rating, topping the 48 percent figure recorded in mid-September. His overall favorable rating was 80 percent before the trip began and 86 percent at its conclusion. The Pope's popularity ratings are exceeded only by those accorded Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and John Kennedy at the peak of their political careers. The survey findings indicate that the overriding message the Pope left with the American people is one of unity, a spirit of "drawing together" that embraces not only Roman Catholics but Americans of other religious affiliations and includes people who have no religious convictions at all.

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GREENWICH, Conn. -- The Episcopal Church's Council for the Development of Ministry -- composed of one elected representative from each of seven boards and agencies having to do with some aspect of ministry, plus six members at large, and nine provincial representatives -- elected six new members at its Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 meeting here. Members elected from the Church at large are: Dr. Timothy Sedgwick, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Frances Wagley, Diocese of Maryland; and Flower Ross, Diocese of Tennessee. Provincial representatives who were elected are: I, Dr. Charity Waymouth, Bar Harbor, Maine; III, the Rev. Lawrence W. Handwerk, Ellicott City, Md.; and VIII, the Rev. John C. Keester, Claremont, Calif.

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